

U.S. EPA
ATTN: Harbor Comments
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2835

AUG 24 2016

EPA-REGION 10

I am opposed to the costly EPA plan to dredge out a big chunk of the Willamette River. If they dig down into the riverbed, they would bring up more sediment and pollutants that would contaminate other parts of the river. The financial burden of this harmful project would fall to Portland residents like me. I would prefer not to pay more in taxes, especially since our family's electric bill is already really high. I also worry that there would be jobs lost once the EPA's plan goes into effect.

The EPA is trying to clean the Willamette River using scientific data that is over 10 years old. It is ridiculous that it took over a decade to finally come back now with a plan, and I don't understand why it took them that long. The EPA needs to re-evaluate their data to see if what was accurate 10 years ago is still accurate today. Hopefully, they can do it more quickly this time.

We can find more financially responsible ways to keep the Willamette River clean, and I'd like to see the EPA do it with a smaller budget. If the project's budget has already been reduced from well over \$1 billion to less than \$750 million, I'm sure we can create a new plan for even less than that. To start, I believe that businesses that contributed to the pollution in the river should now contribute to the cleanup. Holding them partially accountable for this project could help to lower the budget. Additionally, since the pollution in the river has been reduced by over one-third, I would rather see that money used to clean up the pollution we still have right now, or spend it on prevention from even more contaminants.

Sincerely,

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